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Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 51/55 of 10 December 1996, entitled "The maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States", the General Assembly requested Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the issue.

2. To date, the Secretary-General has received a reply from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Any further replies will be issued as addenda to the present note.

II. Replies received from Governments

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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[10 July 1998]

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/55, of 10 December 1996, requested all States and relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States, and decided to consider the subject at its fifty-third session.

2. Considering that the violent disintegration of States may threaten international peace and security, and affirming the need for United Nations measures to help to prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and the economic and social advancement of all peoples, the General Assembly called upon all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to undertake measures to help to prevent the violent disintegration of States.

3. The General Assembly, at the same time, affirmed the need for strict compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders among States and with the principle of the territorial integrity of any State.

4. The General Assembly stressed the importance of the activities of international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development.

5. It stressed the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States to the solution of problems among them, to prevent the violent disintegration of States and to promote international cooperation.

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6. The General Assembly, mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter of the United Nations to refrain in their international relations from threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world, expressed in its resolution 51/55 its deep concern about the situations that may lead to a breach of international peace and that are still present in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them.

7. In the view of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the General Assembly's deep concern expressed in its resolution 51/55 is as valid at present as it was in December 1996 when the resolution was adopted.

8. Resolution 51/55 was proposed by the delegation of the Republic of Macedonia and co-sponsored by the delegations of Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine and the United States of America.

9. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia considers that the development of international relations and those among many States are burdened with problems which can generate conflict situations that could quickly become serious threats to the maintenance of international peace and security and that could endanger the territorial integrity of States.

10. At present, many instabilities in many parts of the world are of deep concern. The reasons for such situations are different. The United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, has a duty to continuously undertake adequate political, economic and social measures aimed at preventing instability, facilitating a solution to the open questions among States and preventing unsatisfactory economic and social developments to become violent conflicts. The same should be done by other international and regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and others.

11. The United Nations and the above-mentioned organizations should be much more involved in the solution of the present conflict situations that are endangering international security and the territorial integrity of States. Their activities should be aimed at a factual and thorough understanding of the developments in different parts of the world, aimed at the solution of conflicts by addressing their root causes. Timely preventive activities and actions by the international community are a precondition for successful prevention of conflict situations.

12. The instabilities in the region of the Republic of Macedonia, in south-eastern Europe, have unfortunately continued to be a fact of the present situation. A large number of countries of the region are undergoing a long and difficult period of social transformation. The war in the region and its consequences, accompanied by additional disturbances, such as sanctions and embargoes during that period, have caused an increase in already existing political, economic and social tensions. Such situations are grounds for conflict situations, which can easily spill over into neighbouring countries and can be reflected in international relations, which can result in disturbing stability and worsening security in the region and beyond.

13. Dangerous instabilities have generated advocates and efforts aimed at the creation of great States, which in fact is a political manoeuvre to camouflage other ideas and an endeavour to violently disintegrate the present States in the region.

14. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, within the framework of its possibilities, taking into account, in particular, the internal situation in the country and the external environment in which it has been pursuing social transition, acted fully in strict compliance with the principles of international law and the fundamental endeavours of the international community aimed at the maintenance of international peace and security. Following the basic principles of its foreign policy, the development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations in particular, it has endeavoured to further develop relations with its neighbours in the region. The Government, taking into account the interdependence of development, fully supports common efforts and activities of the countries in the region and beyond for creating stable conditions for development. In its view, without a stable external and internal environment, without peace, no development or prosperity is possible, nor is the maintenance of international peace and security.

15. To prevent a new war in south-eastern Europe and to prevent the violent disintegration of the States in the region, the following are essential:

- Respect for the territorial integrity of all States;
- Compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders of all States;

- Respect for the human rights and freedoms of all, regardless of race, sex, language or religion;
- Relations among States must be developed in accordance with the principle of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;
- Relations among the Balkan States must be normalized;
- All Balkan States must become members of the Euro-Atlantic integrations;
- The Dayton Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina must be implemented in full;
- The success of the following initiatives is essential: the Pact on Stability in Europe, the Process of Stability and Good-neighbourliness in South-East Europe (the Royaumont initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the Central European Initiative, the process on good-neighbourliness, security, stability and cooperation in south-eastern Europe and other initiatives in favour of peace, security, cooperation and development.

16. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia considers that it is of paramount importance for the General Assembly to continue to insist on undertaking measures aimed at preventing the violent disintegration of States. The General Assembly at its fifty-third session should express deep concern at the present conflict situations in many parts of the world that could endanger international peace and security and international cooperation. It should request the Secretary-General to prepare for its fifty-third session a report on situations that can endanger the territorial integrity of States and recommendations aimed at the prevention of the violent disintegration of States.